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Group Art Unit: 2143
Examiner: Jerry B. Dennison

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 remain in this application.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action includes an objection to the specification due to lack of definition of STS-1, STS-3 and STS-48 acronyms. Amendment is made above to correct this grammatical error and to include these definitions, as such signals are merely representative of the type of signals that are covered by the present invention.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action includes a rejection to Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-13 and 15 as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,574,238 to Thrysoe (the Thrysoe reference). The Office Action also includes a rejection of Claims 4, 5, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thrysoe in view of U.S. Patent 4,967,405 to Upp et al. (the Upp reference). It also rejects Claims 8-10, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thrysoe in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,257,261 to Parruck et al. (the Parruck reference). However, none of these references either alone or in combination teach the requirements of the claims.

Independent Claim 1 and dependent claims 2 through 10

Independent Claim 1 states, "placing payload information from a first frame into payload locations of a second frame, the first frame associated with a first network having a first protocol, the second frame associated with a second network having a second protocol; and placing overhead information from the first frame into payload locations of a payload for the second frame." The Thrysoe reference teaches none of the elements of the claims. The Office Action states that the Thrysoe reference "teaches modifying frames to conform to the frame format by

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moving overhead information so that they precede the final CRC field.” This statement in the Office Action reinforces the differences in the Thrysoe reference and the claims of this application. As disclosed at column 6, lines 21 through 25, the Thrysoe reference is merely rearranging the format of ISL frame header data. The Thrysoe reference states, “The ISL frame processor 504 can rearrange ISL frame header data. For example, the processor 550 can convert between the Ethernet-based ISL frames of Fig. 3B and the modified Ethernet frame of FIG.4 by relocating DESTRD and SRCRD fields in the ISL frames.” The Thrysoe reference is thus merely modifying the ISL frame by moving the placement of two fields in the frame. It does not describe mapping payload or overhead information from a first frame associated with a first network having a first protocol to a second frame associated with a second network having a second protocol.

With regard to claims 4 and 5, the Office Action states that the Upp reference adds to the teachings of the Thrysoe reference to teach the requirements of the claims. It states that, “In an analogous art of processing signals in SONET format, Upp discloses zeroing out the overhead bytes,” and cites column 3, lines 60 through 67. However, the Upp reference is discussing the processing of overhead by a path terminator. It is not referring to mapping payload or overhead information from a first frame associated with a first network having a first protocol to a second frame associated with a second network having a second protocol. Nor does it discuss the advantage of the present invention wherein overhead bytes that are identical between the first network and the second network are not placed into the second frame or wherein redundant overhead bytes are discarded, as required by claims 4 and 5 respectively.

Independent Claim 11 and dependent claims 12 through 15

Independent Claim 11 states, “a node operable to receive frame information in a first frame structure, the first frame structure including a header portion and a payload portion, the node operable to place the payload portion of the first frame structure into a payload portion of a second frame structure, the node operable to place the header portion of the first frame structure into the payload portion of the second frame structure.” The Thrysoe reference does not teaches

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the element of the claim. As disclosed at column 6, lines 21 through 25, the Thrysoe reference is merely rearranging the format of ISL frame header data. The Thrysoe reference states, "The ISL frame processor 504 can rearrange ISL frame header data. For example, the processor 550 can convert between the Ethernet-based ISL frames of Fig. 3B and the modified Ethernet frame of FIG.4 by relocating DESTRD and SRCRD fields in the ISL frames." The Thrysoe reference is thus merely modifying the ISL frame by moving the placement of two fields in the frame. It does not describe placing the payload portion of a first frame structure into a payload portion of a second frame structure, the node operable to place the header portion of the first frame structure into the payload portion of the second frame structure.

With regard to claim 14, the Office Action states that the Upp reference adds to the teachings of the Thrysoe reference to teach the requirements of the claims. It states that, "In an analogous art of processing signals in SONET format, Upp discloses zeroing out the overhead bytes," and cites column 3, lines 60 through 67. However, the Upp reference is discussing the processing of overhead by a path terminator. It is not referring to placing the payload portion of the first frame structure into a payload portion of a second frame structure, the node operable to place the header portion of the first frame structure into the payload portion of the second frame structure. Nor does it discuss the advantage of the present invention wherein the node is operable to discard redundant overhead bytes of the header portion of the first frame structure, as required by claim 14. Thus, the Thrysoe reference and the Upp reference fail to teach or suggest the requirements of claim 14.

Independent Claim 16 and dependent claims 17 through 20

Independent Claim 16 states, "receiving a first STS-3 telecommunications signal carrying three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the three STS-1 telecommunications signals each including header and payload information byte interleaved into a first frame structure for the first STS-3 telecommunications signal, the first frame structure having a header portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the first frame structure having a payload portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1

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telecommunications signals, the payload portion of the first frame structure including fixed stuff byte locations, the payload portion of the first frame structure including path overhead locations; placing the payload portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of a second frame structure for a second STS-3 telecommunications signal, the path overhead locations of the payload portion of the first frame structure being placed into path overhead locations of the second frame structure; placing the header portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of the second frame structure, the header portion of the first frame structure being placed into fixed stuff bytes of the second frame structure.” The Thrysoe reference does not teaches any of the elements of the claim. As disclosed at column 6, lines 21 through 25, the Thrysoe reference is merely rearranging the format of ISL frame header data. The Thrysoe reference states, “The ISL frame processor 504 can rearrange ISL frame header data. For example, the processor 550 can convert between the Ethernet-based ISL frames of Fig. 3B and the modified Ethernet frame of FIG.4 by relocating DESTRD and SRCRD fields in the ISL frames.” The Thrysoe reference is thus merely modifying the ISL frame by moving the placement of two fields in the frame.

The Parruck reference fails to add to the teachings of the Thrysoe reference to teach or suggest the requirements of claim 16. The Office Action states that the Parruck reference teaches, “concatenation of STS-1 signals to form an STS-3 signal,” and cites column 3, lines 15 through 25. The mapping of an STS-N frame, an STS-3 type transport overhead and an STS-NC SPE are illustrated in Figures 6a, 6b and 6c. As seen in these figures, in this concatenation process, it does not disclose that the header portions of the first frame structure are mapped into payload locations of the second frame structure, the header portion of the first frame structure being placed into fixed stuff bytes of the second frame structure, as required by claim 16.

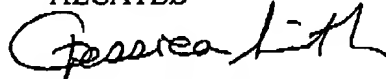
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Conclusion

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

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